



Montgomery County Council

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COUNTY CABLE HISTORY SHOW SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON MONTGOMERY'S FARMERS' MARKETS

The year was 1930. Montgomery County farmers were reeling from the effects of a severe drought, as well as the Great Depression. To help their families pay the bills, a group of 19 women joined together and founded The Bethesda Farm Women's Cooperative Market. The first sale took place in February of 1932 in a vacant store on Wisconsin Avenue. By the end of that year, they moved to the building they still occupy today at 7155 Wisconsin Avenue. By 1935, annual sales approached \$120,000. Ten years later, it was \$400,000. Today, it takes in \$800,000 - \$900,000 each year.

In its next show, "Paths to the Present: Montgomery County Stories" -- seen on County Cable Montgomery channel 6 -- focuses on the development of farmer's markets in this area. It begins with the Bethesda Farm Women's Cooperative Market -- touring the stands, telling its history, and introducing some of the folks who were around in its early days and who continue to make it possible today.

Over the years the idea of a group of farmers coming together to sell fresh produce really caught on here in Montgomery County. Today, the County leads the state in the number of farmer's markets. This episode concludes with a visit to the County's Potomac Farmer's Market, which has been thriving in its same spot for over 10 years.

"Paths to the Present: Montgomery County Stories" is an on-going series highlighting the County's history and is jointly produced by the Montgomery County Council and the Montgomery County Historical Society. It can be seen on County Cable Montgomery (channel 6 on Montgomery County Cable). The episode will begin airing on Sunday, July 14th and will run through August 10th. # # #